

## O'CONNOR – PATENT APPLICATION

### WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A covering for use on an exterior surface, comprising:
  - a fibrous layer having a back surface;
  - an adhesive layer formed on the back surface of the fibrous layer;
  - an impermeable barrier layer secured to the back surface of the fibrous layer with the adhesive layer;
  - a moldable layer applied to the entire impermeable barrier layer and having a bottom surface with an adhesive property, wherein the moldable layer is applied at a coating weight of at least about 185 grams per square meter; and
  - a release sheet releasably secured to the bottom surface of the moldable layer,wherein the fibrous layer, the adhesive layer, the impermeable barrier layer, the moldable layer and the release sheet form a non-rigid composite covering strip that affixes and conforms to an exterior surface to which the covering strip is applied.
2. The covering of claim 1, wherein the barrier layer is foil.
3. The covering of claim 1, wherein the barrier layer is foil supported on a plastic film.
4. The covering of claim 1, wherein the barrier layer is encapsulated between the adhesive layer and the moldable layer.
5. The covering of claim 1, wherein the barrier layer has a first width and the fibrous layer has a second width, wherein the second width is greater than the first width.
6. The covering of claim 1, wherein the composite strip is elongated with a predetermined length and has a predetermined width, the predetermined width being less than the predetermined length.
7. The covering of claim 6, wherein the predetermined width is less than twelve inches.
8. The covering of claim 6, wherein the predetermined length is at least 25 feet.
9. The covering of claim 1, wherein the moldable layer is formed of a hot melt adhesive.

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10. The covering of claim 1, wherein the fibrous layer is a mat formed by needle punching.
11. The covering of claim 1, wherein the fibrous layer is tufted.
12. The covering of claim 1, wherein the fibrous layer is woven.
13. The covering of claim 1, wherein the fibrous layer is carpet.
14. The covering of claim 1, wherein the composite covering strip is packaged in a roll.
15. The covering of claim 1, wherein the release sheet is formed of a silicon coated material.
16. The covering of claim 1, wherein the release sheet has a separate central release strip.
17. The covering of claim 1, wherein the release sheet is formed as three release strips including a release strip on each edge and a middle release strip disposed between the release strips on the edges, wherein each release strip is separately removable from the moldable layer.
18. The covering of claim 17, wherein the middle release strip overlaps the release strips on the edges.
19. The covering of claim 1, wherein the release sheet has free edges that extend beyond the fibrous layer and moldable layer to provide a grasping surface at edges of the composite covering strip.
20. The covering of claim 19, wherein the free edges include an indicia that indicates direction of pile of the fibrous layer.
21. The covering of claim 1, wherein indicia is formed on the composite covering strip that is visible with the release sheet in place.
22. The covering of claim 1, wherein the release sheet is formed of plural sheets.
23. The covering of claim 22, wherein the plural sheets of the release sheet include at least one positioning strip having a width less than at least one of the other sheets.
24. The covering of claim 1, wherein the moldable layer is applied at a coating weight of between about 185 and 600 grams per square meter.

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25. The covering of claim 1, wherein the moldable layer is applied at a coating weight of between about 300 and 500 grams per square meter.

26. The covering of claim 1, wherein the moldable layer has a thickness of between about 10 – 20 mils.

27. The covering of claim 1, in combination with a board of treated lumber, wherein the composite strip is applied to a surface of the board and forms an impermeable bond with a surface of the board of treated lumber.

28. A treated lumber covering, comprising:

an elongated carpet strip with a back surface having a flaccid foil laminated thereto and a thick adhesive layer applied to the foil that forms a moldable surface with an adhesive tack for permanent attachment to the treated lumber that creates a dermal barrier.

29. The treated lumber covering of claim 28, wherein the thick adhesive layer is applied to the foil at a thickness in the range of about 10 – 20 mils.

30. The treated lumber covering of claim 28, wherein the thick adhesive layer is applied to the foil at a coating weight of between about 185 to 600 grams per square meter.

31. The treated lumber covering of claim 28, wherein the thick adhesive layer is pressure sensitive adhesive.

32. The treated lumber covering of claim 28, further comprising a release sheet removably secured to the moldable surface of the thick adhesive layer.

33. The treated lumber covering of claim 32, wherein the release sheet includes a positioning strip portion separable from the remaining release sheet that provides an initial tack area for the treated lumber covering.

34. The treated lumber covering of claim 32, wherein the release sheet carries indicia indicative of direction of pile of the carpet strip.

35. The treated lumber covering of claim 28, further comprising indicia indicative of direction of pile of the carpet strip.

36. A composite strip comprising:

a layer of a fibrous floor covering material having a fibrous front surface and a back surface;

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an adhesive layer adhesively attached to the back surface of the fibrous layer;

an impermeable foil barrier layer which is secured to the back surface of the fibrous layer by the adhesive layer so as to substantially cover the back surface of the fibrous layer;

an attachment layer covering the foil barrier layer having a bottom surface with an adhesive property for attaching the fibrous floor covering material and the foil barrier layer to a support surface; and

a release sheet on the attachment layer which is arranged to be removed for attachment of the attachment layer to the surface,

wherein the foil barrier layer has a thickness less than 0.001 inch (one thousandth of an inch).

37. The composite strip according to claim 36 wherein the composite strip is elongate and rolled to form a supply roll.

38. The composite strip according to claim 36 wherein the attachment layer has the following properties:

it is water impermeable;

it is non-absorbent of water;

it is substantially incompressible in the thickness direction.

39. The composite strip according to claim 36 arranged so as to allow side to side flexibility thereof to allow bending of the layers to match a bowed treated wooden board.

40. The composite strip according to claim 36 wherein the impermeable layer is flaccid so as to provide no resistance to bending of the fibrous layer and the attachment layer from a rolled condition to a flat condition for attachment to a generally flat surface of a wooden board and to follow generally any undulations in the flat surface.

41. The composite strip according to claim 36 wherein the attachment layer has a coating weight per unit area of greater than 185 grams/sq meter.

42. The composite strip according to claim 36 the attachment layer has a coating weight per unit area of greater than 300 grams/sq meter.

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43. The composite strip according to claim 36 wherein total material applied in the attachment layer and in between the barrier layer and the layer of fibrous floor covering material has a weight per unit area of greater than 300 grams/sq meter.
44. The composite strip according to claim 36 wherein total material applied in the attachment layer and in between the barrier layer and the layer of fibrous floor covering material has a weight per unit area of greater than 400 grams/sq meter.
45. The composite strip according to claim 36 wherein total material applied in the attachment layer and in between the barrier layer and the layer of fibrous floor covering material has a weight per unit area of greater than 600 grams/sq meter.
46. The composite strip according to claim 36 wherein the barrier layer is foil supported on a plastic film.
47. The composite strip according to claim 36 wherein the barrier layer is encapsulated between the adhesive layer and the attachment layer by an interconnection of the edges of the adhesive layer and the attachment layer at the edges of the barrier layer.
48. The composite strip according to claim 36 wherein the release sheet is divided into a plurality of release strip portions including a positioning strip release portion and a remaining strip release portion; said positioning strip release portion covering and defining a positioning portion of the attachment layer extending longitudinally along the strip which can be removed to expose the positioning portion for initial attachment of the composite strip to an elongate board; and said remaining strip release portion covering and defining a remaining portion of the attachment layer extending longitudinally along the strip which can be removed subsequent to the positioning strip release portion to expose the remaining portion for subsequent attachment of the composite strip to an elongate board.
49. The composite strip according to claim 48 wherein the remaining portion exposed by removing the remaining strip release portion is wider than the positioning portion exposed by removing the positioning strip release portion.
50. The composite strip according to claim 48 wherein the positioning strip release portion has a side edge which overlaps with and covers a side edge of the remaining strip release portion so as to define a free side edge portion which can be grasped during removal.

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51. The composite strip according to claim 48 wherein the remaining strip release portion has an outer free edge that extends beyond the attachment layer to provide a free side edge portion for grasping during removal of the release sheet.

52. The composite strip according to claim 51 wherein the outer free edge that extends beyond the attachment layer carries markings indicative of a direction of pile of the layer of fibrous floor covering material.

53. The composite strip according to claim 48 wherein the positioning strip release portion is located between two remaining strip release portions, each remaining strip release portion positioned along a respective edge of the strip.

54. The composite strip according to claim 53 wherein the positioning strip release portion has two side edges each of which overlaps with and covers a side edge of a respective one of the remaining strip release portions so as to define free side edge portions for grasping during removal.

55. The composite strip according to claim 53 wherein each of the two remaining strip release portions has an outer free edge that extends beyond the attachment layer to provide a free side edge portion for grasping.

56. The composite strip according to claim 55 wherein the outer free side edge portion that extends beyond the attachment layer carries markings indicative of a direction of pile of the layer of fibrous floor covering material.

57. A composite strip comprising:

- a layer of a elongate fibrous floor covering material having a fibrous front surface and a back surface;

- an adhesive layer adhesively attached to the back surface of the fibrous layer;

- an impermeable foil barrier layer which is secured to the back surface of the fibrous layer by the adhesive layer so as to substantially cover the back surface of the fibrous layer;

- an attachment layer covering the foil barrier layer having a bottom surface with an adhesive property for attaching the fibrous floor covering material and the foil barrier layer to a support surface; and

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a release sheet on the attachment layer which is arranged to be removed for attachment of the attachment layer to the surface,

wherein the barrier layer is flaccid.

58. The composite strip according to claim 57 wherein the composite elongate strip is rolled into a roll.

59. The composite strip according to claim 57 which is arranged so as to provide no resistance to bending of the fibrous layer and the attachment layer from a rolled condition to a flat condition for attachment to a generally flat surface and to follow by gravity generally any undulations in the flat surface.

60. The composite strip according to claim 57 arranged so as to allow side to side flexibility thereof to allow bending of the layers to match a bowed treated wooden board.

61. The composite strip according to claim 57 wherein the attachment layer has a coating weight per unit area of greater than 185 grams/sq meter.

62. The composite strip according to claim 57 the attachment layer has a coating weight per unit area of greater than 300 grams/sq meter.

63. The composite strip according to claim 57 wherein total material applied in the attachment layer and in between the barrier layer and the layer of fibrous floor covering material has a weight per unit area of greater than 300 grams/sq meter.

64. The composite strip according to claim 57 wherein total material applied in the attachment layer and in between the barrier layer and the layer of fibrous floor covering material has a weight per unit area of greater than 400 grams/sq meter.

65. The composite strip according to claim 57 wherein total material applied in the attachment layer and in between the barrier layer and the layer of fibrous floor covering material has a weight per unit area of greater than 600 grams/sq meter.

66. The composite strip according to claim 57 wherein the barrier layer is foil supported on a plastic film.

67. The composite strip according to claim 57 wherein the barrier layer is encapsulated between the adhesive layer and the attachment layer by an interconnection of the edges of the adhesive layer and the attachment layer at the edges of the barrier layer.

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68. The composite strip according to claim 57 wherein the release sheet is divided into a plurality of release strip portions including a positioning strip release portion and a remaining strip release portion; said positioning strip release portion covering and defining a positioning portion of the attachment layer extending longitudinally along the strip which can be removed to expose the positioning portion for initial attachment of the composite strip to an elongate board; and said remaining strip release portion covering and defining a remaining portion of the attachment layer extending longitudinally along the strip which can be removed subsequent to the said positioning strip release portion to expose the remaining portion for subsequent attachment of the composite strip to an elongate board.

69. The composite strip according to claim 68 wherein the remaining portion exposed by removing the remaining strip release portion is wider than the positioning portion exposed by removing the positioning strip release portion.

70. The composite strip according to claim 68 wherein the positioning strip release portion has a side edge which overlaps with and covers a side edge of the remaining strip release portion so as to define a free side edge portion for grasping.

71. The composite strip according to claim 68 wherein the remaining strip release portion has an outer free edge that extends beyond the attachment layer to provide a free side edge portion for grasping during removal.

72. The composite strip according to claim 71 wherein the outer free edge that extends beyond the attachment layer carries markings indicative of a direction of pile of the layer of fibrous floor covering material.

73. The composite strip according to claim 68 wherein the positioning strip release portion is located between two remaining strip release portions each disposed along a respective edge of the strip.

74. The composite strip according to claim 73 wherein the positioning strip release portion has two side edges each of which overlaps with and covers a side edge of a respective one of the remaining strip release portions so as to define free side edge portions for grasping.



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75. The composite strip according to claim 74 wherein each of the two remaining strip release portions has an outer free edge that extends beyond the attachment layer to provide a free side edge portion for grasping during removal.

76. The composite strip according to claim 75 wherein the outer free side edge portion that extends beyond the attachment layer carries markings indicative of a direction of pile of the layer of fibrous floor covering material.

77. A composite elongate strip comprising

- a layer of a fibrous floor covering material having a fibrous front surface and a back surface;

- an adhesive layer adhesively attached to the back surface of the fibrous layer;

- an impermeable foil barrier layer which is secured to the back surface of the fibrous layer by the adhesive layer so as to substantially cover the back surface of the fibrous layer;

- an attachment layer covering the foil barrier layer and having a bottom surface with an adhesive property for attaching the fibrous floor covering material and the foil barrier layer to a support surface; and

- a release sheet on the attachment layer which is arranged to be removed for attachment of the attachment layer to the surface,

- wherein the release sheet is divided into a plurality of release strip portions including a positioning strip release portion and a remaining strip release portion,

- the positioning strip release portion covering and defining a positioning portion of the attachment layer extending longitudinally along the strip which can be removed to expose the positioning portion for initial attachment of the composite strip to an elongate board, and

- the remaining strip release portion covering and defining a remaining portion of the attachment layer extending longitudinally along the strip which can be removed subsequent to the said positioning strip release portion to expose the remaining portion for subsequent attachment of the composite strip to an elongate board.

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78. The composite elongate strip according to claim 77 wherein the remaining portion of the attachment layer exposed by removing said remaining strip release portion is wider than the positioning portion exposed by removing the positioning strip release portion.

79. The composite elongate strip according to claim 77 wherein the positioning strip release portion has a side edge which overlaps with and covers a side edge of the remaining strip release portion so as to define a free side edge portion.

80. The composite elongate strip according to claim 77 wherein the remaining strip release portion has an outer free edge that extends beyond the attachment layer to provide a free side edge portion for grasping during removal of the release sheet.

81. The composite elongate strip according to claim 80 wherein the outer free edge that extends beyond the attachment layer carries markings indicative of a direction of pile of the layer of fibrous floor covering material.

82. The composite elongate strip according to claim 77 wherein the positioning strip release portion is located between two remaining strip release portions each disposed along a respective edge of the strip.

83. The composite elongate strip according to claim 77 wherein the positioning strip release portion has two side edges each of which overlaps with and covers a side edge of a respective one of the remaining strip release portions so as to define free side edge portions for grasping.

84. The composite elongate strip according to claim 77 wherein each of the two remaining strip release portions has an outer free edge that extends beyond the attachment layer to provide a free side edge portion for grasping during removal.

85. The composite elongate strip according to claim 84 wherein the outer free side edge portion that extends beyond the attachment layer carries markings indicative of a direction of pile of the layer of fibrous floor covering material.